

To all of our New Grade 9 Students and Their Families:

We are delighted that you have decided to become a part of this remarkable school community. Whether you already have direct ties to the school or are just beginning your association with Bedford Road, we extend a sincere and hearty welcome. You are welcome to contact the school at any time, but we thought it might be useful to anticipate a few common questions that people have regarding the start of high school. So here it goes!

Will the school keep in touch over the summer break?

You won't hear much from us until mid-August, when you should receive a newsletter in the mail. It will include an outline of school fees and other information about the new school year. Office staff and caretakers will be at the school throughout the summer from 8-3:30 Monday through Thursdays, and from 8-11:30 am on Fridays.

When is the first day of school and what will it look like? School starts on Tuesday September 1st at 8:50 am. You will go to the Bedford Auditorium, where you will meet briefly before moving to classes. Some extra-curricular activities may start the first day of school so students should pay close attention to the notices.

What school supplies will be needed? We would like to encourage students to get off to a strong, organized start, so we recommend that you come with a few basic items:

- ✓ 2 binders (one for morning classes and one for the afternoon)
- ✓ Loose leaf (200 sheets)
- ✓ 8-10 divider pages
- ✓ Pencils (2), blue pens (2), red pen, highlighter
- ✓ White out/eraser

You will be told in our classes if any special materials are required. Each student will receive a planner/handbook, and a lock for his or her assigned locker. Bedford Road gym strip (shorts and t-shirt) will be issued in your Phys. Ed. Class. The cost of the apparel is included in the school fees. Some courses will also require textbooks, which will be distributed during the first few days of school from our library.

What is Welcome Week all about? There will be a variety of activities planned by the SRC to help orient grade nines and make them feel part of their new school. Our welcoming activities happen at school, during the day, and under supervision. In the past, we have heard of new students being invited out to lunch or to evening parties by older students declaring themselves to be seniors or mentors to the newcomers. These activities are not condoned by the school. If students are asked to participate in activities that could harm, demean, or ridicule them you can be assured that these are not sanctioned nor supported by the school. Students should refuse to participate and report this to a teacher, counsellor or administrator. At times students claim to have volunteered for some ill-treatment that they have received. This is not acceptable. Students can consent to having their faces painted (as part of a sanctioned SRC activity) only for the Red Mile football game.

What can I do at lunch? You will have 50 minutes for lunch every day. Bring a bag lunch from home, or go to Georgio's, the school servery, which has a lunch special and other food items available for sale. You may leave the campus for lunch, but we expect you will have communicated this plan with your parents. Many clubs meet during the lunch break, and intramural sports are scheduled in the gyms. The library is also open for students wishing to complete some of their work.

We hope we have answered a few of the common questions that cause our newest students some anxiety. We look forward to seeing you again, already to go, on September 1st. Until then, have a great summer!

